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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/472,988	12/28/1999	TERUAKI OKUDA	35.G2524	9448
5514	7590	07/15/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			SCHWARTZ, PAMELA R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1774	

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/472,988

Applicant(s)

OKUDA, TERUAKI

Examiner

Pamela R. Schwartz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,5 and 7-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. In view of amendments to the claims which require the outermost surface layer to consist of thermoplastic latex resin, rejection over Hirose et al. (6,203,899) taken alone or in view of either of Malhotra (6,180,238) or Cousin et al. (4,554,181) has been overcome.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaki et al. (6,174,056) in view of either of Malhotra (6,180,238) or Cousin et al. (4,554,181). Sakaki et al. disclose an ink jet recording medium and method. The medium comprises a support which may be paper, an ink-receiving layer of pigment and binder, and may have an upper layer of latex polymer (see col. 2, lines 55-65, col. 3, lines 54-63, col. 4, lines 56-57, col. 5, lines 47-53). The coating weight is preferably within the range of 3 to 40 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (see col. 5, lines 35-36). The outermost layer will inherently form a transparent film upon heating since it is merely formed from a latex resin. The reference does not disclose coating on both surfaces however, it would have been obvious to do so in order to make both surfaces ink receptive so that both surfaces may be printed on.

Malhotra and Cousin et al. each disclose sheets for ink jet recording comprising supports with ink receptive coating layers thereon. Each reference discloses that both front and back surfaces of the supports may be coated (see Malhotra, col. 39, lines 32-44 and Cousin et al., the examples). In light of these teachings that it is known in the art to apply ink receptive coatings to both surfaces of a support, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the coatings of the primary reference to both surfaces in order to render both surfaces printable. With respect to claim 3, using

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alumina hydrate as the inorganic pigment of the ink receptive layer would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because it is one of the most widely used inorganic pigments for this purpose and carries a frequently desired cationic charge (opposite charge from anionic dyes).

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Ashida et al. (6,357,871). The reference discloses an ink jet recording medium comprising a support which may be paper, an ink absorbing layer which may be binder, such as alumina hydrate, and binder, and a layer of thermoplastic fine particles which may be vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate. The fine particle layer is coated at a rate of 1-50 g/m<sup>2</sup>. See col. 4, lines 14-22 and 51-54, col. 5, lines 12-36, col. 7, lines 1-11 and 60-65, and col. 9, lines 16-29. Fine particles are considered to be structurally the same as latex particles when present in the final product. While all claim limitations appear to be disclosed by the reference, to the extent the reference does not fully anticipate any aspect of the invention, the

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claimed invention would have been obvious therefrom based upon the suggestion of the reference to include each aspect of the instantly claimed medium as set forth above.

4. Applicant's arguments filed April 12, 2004 but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

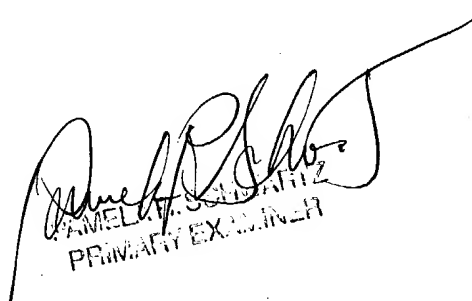
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pamela Schwartz whose telephone number is (571) 272-1528.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye, can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PRSchwartz  
July 9, 2004



PAMELA H. SCHWARTZ  
PRIMARY EXAMINER